

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02 DODE-00
DOE-11 SS-15 SP-02 PM-05 /108 W
-----072984 200350Z /73

P 200317Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4765

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 00291

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, TECH, NE

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT OF NIUE REQUEST CONCERNING URANIUM
MINING

REF: (A) CINCPAC 1703392 JAN 78, (B) STATE 14579

1. WHILE MY MISSION IS NOT POSITIONED TO OFFER ADVICE WITH
RESPECT TO THE SPECIFIC REQUEST OF PREMIER ROBERT R. REX OF
NIUE (CONTAINED IN HIS LETTER OF DECEMBER 22, 1977, TO
FORMER AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNOR REX LEE AND FORWARDED TO YOU
BY REF A), I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT
PREMIER REX, IN SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT RESPECTS, HAS DEPARTED
FROM ESTABLISHED CHANNELS.

(A) NIUE IS A SELF-GOVERNING STATE IN FREE ASSOCIATION WITH
NEW ZEALAND. ITS CITIZENS ARE EQUALLY CITIZENS OF NEW
ZEALAND. THE NIUE CONSTITUTION ACT OF 1974, AS ENACTED BY
THE NEW ZEALAND PARLIAMENT, EXTENDS SELF-GOVERNING STATUS
(ARTICLE 3) BUT ALSO RESERVES TO NEW ZEALAND THE
RESPONSIBILITY TO ACT IN NIUE'S BEHALF IN MATTERS OF
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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE (ARTICLE 6). FURTHER,
ARTICLES 7 AND 8 PROVIDE FOR THE "CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITY
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND TO PROVIDE NECESSARY
ECONOMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE" AS WELL AS "POSITIVE
COOPERATION" BETWEEN NEW ZEALAND AND NIUE IN "ANY
OTHER ASPECT" OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP.

(B) NEW ZEALAND HAS A FULL-TIME REPRESENTATIVE IN NIUE.

(C) AS PREMIER REX HAS STATED IN HIS LETTER TO FORMER GOVERNOR LEE, NIUE DOES NOT HAVE A DIRECT LINK WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT -- OR FOR THAT MATTER WITH ANY OTHER ELEMENT OF THE USG. SINCE I HAVE VISITED NIUE AS THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, PREMIER REX KNOWS I AM ACCREDITED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND AND, BY VIRTUE OF THE NIUE CONSTITUTION ACT OF 1974, TO NIUE AS WELL.

2. APPARENTLY FOR REASONS OF HIS OWN, PREMIER REX HAS SOUGHT IN HIS LETTER OF DECEMBER 22 TO IGNORE THE EXISTING, ESTABLISHED NEW ZEALAND RELATIONSHIPS. WHILE IT IS PERHAPS WITHIN HIS LEGAL RIGHTS TO BE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE USG ON THIS ISSUE, I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND THAT THE MATTER OF POSSIBLE EXPLOITATION OF NIUEAN URANIUM BE RETURNED TO MORE APPROPRIATE CHANNELS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, I URGE THAT ANY REPLY TO PREMIER REX, IN WHATEVER FORM, BE ROUTED BACK THROUGH MY MISSION AND THAT I BE AUTHORIZED TO SHARE ITS CONTENTS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND. RECOGNIZING THAT YOU MAY HAVE A VIEW OF THE URANIUM ORE ISSUE BROADER THAN THAT HELD BY ME IN WELLINGTON, I ADDITIONALLY SEEK YOUR CONCURRENCE IN MY SHARING THE TEXT
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OF PREMIER REX'S LETTER WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND AT AN EARLY DATE. SELDEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: URANIUM, MINING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 031025e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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SAS ID: 3735741
Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: EMIN, TECH, NE
To: STATE
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